

City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)  
July 16, 2015  
City Hall – Work Session Room

**PRAB Members Present**

Jon Stehle  
Jane Albro  
Jeff Ferrell  
Kirk Holley  
Janet Jaworski  
Brian Knapp

Eric Mittnacht  
Robert Reinsel  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Michael Slawski  
Harry Wilbur  
Cathy Salgado

**Members Absent**

Michael Anderson  
Michael Breslin  
Evie Ifantides

**Guests**

Michelle Veresink Richmond, Parks & Recreation Department

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order at 6:03pm by Chairman Jon Stehle.*

Chairman Stehle welcomed Cathy Salgado, new Director of Parks & Recreation.

Cathy Salgado introduced herself, explaining that she worked for the Town of Vienna for 13 years as their Director of Parks & Recreation. She has experiences with community involvement and partnerships, as well as working with community organizations and businesses in a collaborative effort. She is learning all of the processes within the department so she can fully understand any issues moving forward.

**2. Adoption of Agenda & Minutes**

Kirk Holley moved to accept the agenda and June 11, 2015 minutes. Zinta Rodgers-Rickert seconded.

*The agenda and minutes were approved.*

**3. Old Business**

**a) Park Rules & Bylaws**

Cathy Salgado will be working to put park rules and bylaws on the September Council agenda.

**b) Green Acres Feasibility Study**

Jon Stehle reported that the committee chose to create two subcommittees: one for uses and one for sites. Jon Stehle and Cathy Salgado will be serving on the uses subcommittee. In September the committee will meet with the School Board to discuss

whether the City needs a new school in 8-10 years. The sites subcommittee will consider the Paul VI High School campus, but that does not seem like a likely option at this point.

**c) Websites**

OurParksOurFuture and the City website are available as resources. Suggestions are always welcome for the sites as we want to make them more user-friendly.

**5. New Business**

**a) Social Media Analysis**

Michael Breslin reported over the phone the during the summer he is working to collect data and analyze the effects of social media related to Fourth of July and World Police and Fire Games. He will be looking at trends in order to maximize social media's usefulness. He will be looking at the City accounts as well as Parks & Recreation's social media pages and #Fairfax2015, #FairfaxFourth, #wpfg. Breslin will present his report at September's meeting.

**b) Annual Plan**

Jon Stehle noted that the plan is to create a draft in September that could be adopted in October. It would be a four page report using citizen-centric reporting.

**c) ADA Study**

Jon Stehle would like to add the ADA Study as a standing item until it is finished. He requested seeing the checklists and the process. Cathy Salgado explained that the department has a lot of facilities that will need to be gone through and the guidelines so far have not been clarified. Staff will need proper training to complete the study.

**6. Parks & Recreation Department Report**

**a) Snyder Trail**

Cathy Salgado reported that the trail work is finishing up next week and they are finalizing signage. A ribbon-cutting will be planned for early September.

**b) Draper Drive Park**

New playground equipment is in at Draper Drive Park and it is now open.

**c) Natural Learning Playgrounds**

Cathy Salgado would like to bring PRAB more information about the future of playgrounds and natural learning elements in parks.

**7. Stakeholder Updates**

**a) School Board – Robert Reinsel**

The softball grandstand and pressbox is complete. There will be an official opening in September. There is \$350,000 left over from School Board. The antennae are now on the monopole.

**b) Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

Joint meeting with City Council was held last week on the Fairfax Boulevard Master Plan. Consensus is not to adopt the plan from 10 years ago but to fold ideas into a new comprehensive plan. A plan for five lots is being considered for Cobb's Grove, with the historical house. There should be a small proffer with that.

No new news for Layton Hall.

Fairfax Circle will break ground in 2016 and open in 2017.

Lowe's will be moving into the old K-Mart store.

**c) Senior Center – Jane Albro**

No report.

**d) Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

No report.

**e) Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur**

The Commission on the Arts is currently considering recommendations on sites in the City for public art, including in parks. They have a new program that will be launching in September; more details to follow. Historic Fairfax, Inc. has a planting plan for Kitty Pozer Garden. The contact for that group is Sandra Wilbur.

**f) NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Brian Knapp reported that NOVA Parks looks like it will end the year with a surplus, part of which may be directed towards lowering the unfunded part of the retirement fund but the majority of which will go back into Capital Projects.

NOVA Parks is months away from breaking ground on the trail connection between Thaiss and Willcoxon Parks, but the project continues to move along.

They are considering the corner of Route 50 and Pickett Road for a new NOVA Park. This plot includes parcels from the City and Fairfax County and the project would include NOVA Park leasing the land. Knapp noted that he would report back on any progress.

Knapp also noted the growing trend in outdoor fitness machines that could be incorporated into parks.

**10. Matters of the Members**

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert and Janet Jaworski expressed concern regarding the road closures on Old Lee Highway during the Fourth of July evening events.

**11. Adjournment**

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert moved to end the meeting. Kirk Holley seconded.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.*